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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE



# ANNUAL REPORT

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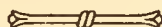
—1955—

ON THE

## HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

BY THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,  
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.





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## Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955

*To, The Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the Honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the Year ended December 31st, 1955.

During the year, the health of the Borough has been good. The total death rate is slightly below that recorded in 1954 and is also below the rate for England and Wales as a whole and the infantile death rate is below the rate for last year. Of the infectious diseases, measles, whooping-cough and chicken-pox were the only ones to show any heavy incidence and measles was prevalent through the County to an extent greater than for many years. Three cases of anterior polio-myelitis, happily with no fatalities, were admitted to hospital. For the 5th consecutive year, diphtheria has been unknown in the Borough and again it is a satisfaction to record a maternal death rate of "Nil".

Some progress has been possible during the year in the closing and demolition of unfit houses in the Borough but housing problem is still serious and is not yet within sight of solution and the speed of clearance of the unfit dwellings is dependent on the rate at which the inhabitants can be re-housed.

To the Borough Council, to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, to my professional colleagues in Maidstone and to the staff of the Health Department, I would express my thanks for the help and co-operation which I have received during the year, and,

I have the Honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Health Department,  
13, Tonbridge Road,  
Maidstone.

18th September, 1956.

## Health Committee, 1955.

CHAIRMAN. Councillor N.D. Bond.

VICE-CHAIRMAN. Councillor A T. Wilson.

MEMBERS Aldermen Mrs. Relf, and Clark, Councillors  
Brittain, Morling, Crispin, Foreman, Parker,  
Westover.

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE MAIDSTONE CORPORATION.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

P. Jacob Gaffikin, M.C., T.D., M.D.,  
B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

#### CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

W.A.N. Baker, O.B.E., M.C.,  
F.R.S.I., *Certificate, Inspector of Meat  
and Other Foods*, M.I.P.C.

#### ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS

Geoffrey Adams  
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,  
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.*

R.A.R. Key,  
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,  
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.*

H. Moule,  
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,  
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.*

John Arnold,  
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.,  
Certificate, Inspector of Meat and Other  
Foods.*

Brian Willis,  
*Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, R.S.I.*

#### CLERKS

M.O.H. Office

Mrs L. Thurlow

Sanitary Inspector's Office.

Mrs Stangroom,

Mrs. Jones

Miss B. Fowler.

# **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Borough.**

## **General Statistics.**

Area: -6,194 acres.

Population: -Census 1921-37,448. Census 1931-42,259.

Estimated Resident Population, 1955: -

For calculation of Birth and Death Rates, etc. 54,760

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955) 15,635

Rateable Value: -£518,975

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate: -£2,190

### **Extracts from Vital Statistics.**

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ..	347	336	683)
Illegitimate ..	14	17	31)
			714

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population -

Crude 13.03  
Corrected 13.16

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ..	15.0
for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns ..	14.9
for 160 Smaller Towns ..	14.9

Stillbirths: -Male 8, Female 8. Total 16.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 21.91

Still birth rate per 1,000 population .. 0.29

for England & Wales ..	23.1
for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns ..	23.2
for 160 Smaller Towns ..	23.3

Deaths .. Male 319 Female 334 Total .. 653

Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population -

Crude 11.92  
Corrected 11.44

" " for England & Wales ..	11.7
" " for 160 County Boroughs & Great Towns	11.6
" " for 160 Smaller Towns ..	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal causes: (Headings 29 and 30 of the  
the Registrar General's Short List): -

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) births
Pregnancy, Childbirth & Abortion Nil	Nil	
No. 30 ..	Nil	Nil
Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age: -		
All infants per 1,000 live births ..		21.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ..		20.48
Illegitimate " " " " " " ..		32.25
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..		107
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ..		1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		Nil
" " Measles (all ages) ..		Nil



In this Report I do not propose to recapitulate the geological and climatic features of the Borough area -- these do not alter enough from year to year to make mention justifiable, but the year under review has been marked by continued prosperity in the established industries of Maidstone and the inception of new enterprises which promise to bring further employment. One obvious tribute to the prosperity of the County town and the adjacent rural areas is shown in the anxiety of many of the multiple firms to establish branches in Maidstone: another is the high reputation of Maidstone products in other parts of the United Kingdom and overseas.

### **General Provision of Health Services in the Area.**

The School Medical Service, with inspections and school clinics, the Maternity and Child Welfare Services and the Domiciliary Midwifery Service are now all part of the activities of the County Council and are controlled by the County Medical Officer. During 1955 the births notified in the Borough were as follows

Live Births	714	A decrease of 68 from 1954
Still Births	16	" " " " 4 " "

**HOSPITALS.** These are as described in previous reports but additional beds are now available at Linton Hospital and there has also been considerable use made of beds available at the Isolation Hospital Fant Lane, for non-infectious cases and post-operative recovery

**HOME AND DOMESTIC HELPS** This service, which is administered by the County Medical Officer, is one of the most valuable now in operation and the provision of home help has, in many cases, made it possible for old folk to remain in their own accustomed surroundings instead of being removed to institutional care with obvious advantage to the patients and the community alike from an increase of contentment and a lessened call on public funds. I am glad that the County Council's Home Help service is being extended to allow of such help in the night hours. In Maidstone, there is excellent co-operation between the official organisation



for such service and the Personal Service League: this is only what I should expect for in the Borough I have always found ready co-operation between voluntary and official agencies for the good of the community.

**TUBERCULOSIS AND CHEST CLINIC.** This is now a part of the National Health Service and all needful facilities for diagnosis and treatment are available. The figures relating to the investigation of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis are given later in this Report and in Maidstone the protective vaccine known as B.C.G. is now in use. I have seen this protective vaccine in extensive use in the Scandinavian countries and high hopes are entertained that this procedure will hasten the prevention of tuberculosis.

**EPILEPTICS AND SPASTICS.** The Maidstone Branch of the National Spastics Association has aroused much local interest in the work of providing help and training for these handicapped children

**CARE OF THE OLDER POPULATION** In my previous Report, I made mention of the success that had attended the experiment by Messrs. Sharp Limited in the employment of a number of the elder members of the community and this has been followed by further work in the organisation of employment which has proved to be of interest and value to those whose later days tend to be without interest or occupation. I am glad to know that the effort to establish a permanent work place for older men and women where various occupations which have been found to be within their capacity can be followed, but it is certain that such an establishment will need the generous support of Maidstone citizens to meet the inescapable cost of maintenance.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Maidstone Water Company supplies the area of the Borough of Maidstone and parts of the adjacent Rural Districts. The demand steadily increases and the Company has had to make provision for coping with this demand. Nearly 99% of the population in the area which the Company serves have a piped main water supply available. During 1955 progress has been

made in the building of the new pumping station at Hockers Lane, which will be in use in 1956, before this report appears and the new reservoir at Detling will shortly be completed.

The greatest care is taken to ensure the purity of the water supplied by the Company. Chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of samples are carried out monthly, some at the Public Health Laboratory in Maidstone and some by the Company's own analysts. The results of the examinations are consistently satisfactory. In the Table below, I give the average of the results of the regular chemical analyses of the water during the year

	Boarley Standpipe	Cossington Springs	Forstal Well	Farleigh Engine House	Cossington Well	Boxley Well	Boxley Borehole	Hockers Lane Borehole
Parts per 100,000								
Total Solid Residue	39.5	34.8	56.1	51.4	48.3	30.6	26.0	30.6
Chlorine	2.55	2.41	4.05	3.31	2.14	2.08	2.19	2.71
Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.41	.37	.24	.38	.003	.17	.005	.32
Nitrogen (Nitrates)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonia Saline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ammonia Albuminoid.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Iron	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs at 27°C)	.006	.006	.006	.007	.005	.008	.008	.007
Oxygen Absorbed (4 hrs at 27°C)	.020	.011	.016	.010	.011	.014	.015	.001
Total Hardness	27.6	24.4	39.0	32.8	13.3	22.6	13.3	18.0

There are still a few groups of houses in Maidstone where the main water supply is not taken into the houses but is drawn from stand-pipes and with the elimination of the areas of unfit houses which are the subject of representations for clearance areas or for demolition orders on individual houses, this defect in the provision of water supply will be removed from the town.

**BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SWIMMING-BATH WATER.** Four samples of the water from the Large and Small Swimming Pools at the Corporation Baths are taken monthly and submitted to the Laboratory for examination. The water in the Baths undergoes constant change during the period of use of the Baths and the purity of the water is secured by filtration and chlorination. During 1955, 48 samples of the water were examined, and the results were entirely satisfactory; in no case was an unsatisfactory report received.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE** No extensions or alterations to the sewage disposal works have been made in 1955, but with the continued building of new houses and the growth of the Borough, expansion and enlargement of the disposal works become more necessary. During 1955 the following extensions to the system of sewers in the Borough have been made:-

Soil Sewer 4" diameter	390 yards
" " 6" " "	1,544 "
" " 7" " "	175 "
" " 9" " "	78 "
Total	2,187 "
Surface Water Sewer 6" diameter	17 "
" " " 9" " "	188 "
Total	205 "

**RIVERS AND STREAMS** I am glad to report that a considerable improvement in the condition of the Medway has been secured with the co-operation of industrial firms who have made great efforts to eliminate the pollution of the river by trade wastes. There is still considerable pollution of the part of the Medway below Maidstone Lock where the river is tidal and some of this is from the Borough sewage disposal works which

are already overloaded, and if pollution of the Medway above, through and below Maidstone, can be eliminated, the state of the whole of Kent's largest river, and its estuary, will be vastly improved. The cleansing of the Len river has been the subject of investigation and proposals are made for this work which will effect a long-needed improvement.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION** The number of houses having closet accommodation of various types is shown below:-

Properties with W.C's discharging into the sewer system	15,363
Properties with W.C's discharging into cess-pits ..	331
Properties with earth closets or privy middens ..	18
Properties with pail closets .. .. .	66

As will be seen from this Table, most of the houses in the Borough are equipped with water closets and connected to the sewers, but there are some areas where the sewers are not available and extension is not practicable. Some houses with water supply available have W.C's discharging into cess-pits, but in an urban area, the existence of cess-pits is to be deplored a few earth closets still remain and in some places, pail closets are still used but these are steadily being reduced in number.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.** The Chief Sanitary Inspector has supplied the following details of the work done during the year. These details are set out in the Tables which follow, and with a complete establishment of qualified Inspectors, inspections and re-inspections have been regular and frequent. The inspections for the programme of slum clearance have made good progress, but the rate of actual clearance which can be obtained depends on the re-housing of the occupants of these unfit houses and a programme of slum clearance must march in step with the programme of house building.



# Annual Report, 1955.

Bakehouse inspections	21
Chimneys repaired	16
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided	9
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired	12
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	37
Common Lodging House inspections	48
Coppers repaired	15
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff	1,212
choked and cleansed	1,106
reconstructed	13
tested with smoke	43
tested with water	26
inspection chambers provided	14
inspection chambers airtight covers provided	4
stoneware pipes laid, feet	523
iron pipes laid, feet	39
trapped from sewer and ventilated	2
Dustbins provided	17
Factory, workplaces and outworkers' premises inspected	336
Fresh air inlets provided	-
Grates renewed or repaired	35
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars	-
floors to living-rooms provided or repaired	12
chuting or guttering repaired or renewed	189
roofs repaired	756
rooms where dirry or loose paper has been removed	-
and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered	312
walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method	42
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases	82
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise	4,329
Re-inspections	8,216
Mortar joints to brickwork repaired	32
Miscellaneous defects remedied	14
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt	9
Poultry or animals removed	2
Public Houses inspected	86
Restaurants and Cafes inspected	36
Schools inspected	3
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped	11
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired	17
Stairs repaired	36
Stoneware gullies provided	11
Strainers provided to gullies	3
W.C's, Walls and ceilings repaired	82
flushing apparatus provided or repaired	126
new pans and traps provided	36
structural defects remedied	45
seats	18
Water supplies provided or repaired	12
Window frames repaired	162
Verminous rooms cleansed	193
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses	9
Preliminary Notices served	397
Statutory Notices served	42

(f) Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(1) - INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.  
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power	275	9	-
Factories without Mechanical Power	48	-	-
Other premises	10	-	-
Total	333	9	-

2 - DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Factories Act 1937 and the Public Health Act, 1936				
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Want of Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Want of Drainage Floors	-	-	-	-
Other Nuisances	-	-	-	-
Sanitary (Insufficient Accommodation (Unsuitable or Defects Not Separate for sexes)	9	10	-	-
Offences under the Factories Act, 1937				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 54)	-	-	-	-
Other Offences (Excluding Offences relating to the outwork and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer or Powers Order 1921)	-	-	1	-
Total	10	11	1	-

(g) Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws

These are as follows -

Common Lodging Houses	..	4
Slaughter Houses	..	3
Houses let in Lodgings	..	6
Dairies	..	3

## Housing.

During 1955, the number of new houses erected in the Borough was 351. Of these 175 houses were erected by the Local Authority and 176 houses were provided by private enterprise.

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

<b>I.-Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.</b>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,146
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	1,473
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-section (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	-
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	-
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	34
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	440
<b>II.-Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.</b>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	397
<b>III.-Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.</b>	
<b>A.-PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.</b>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners	26
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1
<b>B.-PROCEEDING UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.</b>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16



# Housing Statistics-(continued)

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice--	
(a) by owners	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	-
C.-PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Order were made	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	26
D.-PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 AND SECTION 3 (1) OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1949	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	5
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	-
E.-PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 10 (1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953	
(1) Closing orders made	3
IV.-Housing Act, 1936 - Part 4 - Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Indeterminable
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	"
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	"
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	23
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	10
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	57
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	-
V.-Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	
Certificates applied for	4
Number granted	5

Despite the efforts that have been made to increase the supply of houses - and Maidstone has been building steadily since the war, - the waiting list is still a long one and seems to become even longer. I have commented on the existence of overcrowding, in previous Reports, but in Maidstone the cause of this overcrowding is so often the same, - the young folk marry and live at their parents' homes; the babies arrive until the young family qualifies for that section of the waiting list described as "Man, wife and two, or more", for which the waiting time is less interminable, though it is still long enough to be a severe strain on the young parents and on the weary grandparents.

### Verminous Dwellings

During the year 1955, the following work in the eradication of bugs and other vermin in houses was carried out. -

(a) Council Houses found to be infested	..	5
(b) Other Houses found to be infested	..	43
Council Houses disinfested:-		
(a) By gassing	.. .. .	-
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides	.. .. .	5
Other Houses disinfested:-		
(a) By gassing	.. .. .	-
(b) By spraying and the burning of insecticides	.. .. .	43
Verminous households fumigated before removal to a Council House or during transfer to another Council house		
	.. .. .	22
Council Houses inspected and found clean	..	205
Other Houses inspected and found clean	..	129

## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

All kinds of food from all kinds of places, near and far come to British tables and for the protection of the public there is a vast system of inspection and supervision. For the inspection of animals killed in the Borough for human consumption, the inspectors of the Health Department, all but one of which are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods, have continued in 1955 to inspect all the carcasses intended for human consumption. This 100 per cent inspection can only be secured by the working of a certain amount of overtime and would not be possible if the pre-war arrangements whereby slaughtering was done in a number of scattered privately owned slaughter-houses still prevailed. In 1955 the slaughtering in Maidstone was concentrated in three slaughterhouses, two of which are managed and operated by the Corporation. Unfortunately these are by no means up to the standard which is desirable being badly situated and inadequate in space and equipment. I still urge the need for an up-to-date abattoir in Maidstone and if the scheme for the concentration of slaughtering in centres serving large areas of the country is not pursued the provision of a municipal abattoir, to serve the Borough and possibly the adjacent Rural Districts remains an immediate and urgent necessity for Maidstone.

The number of carcasses inspected and the amount condemned in 1955 are as follows:-

1955	Cattle in- cluding cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed .. ) Number inspected .. )	2744	1219	3079	11054	..
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBER- CULOSIS & CYSTICERCI					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	1	17	28	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	604	11	440	2090	-
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerai .. .. .	22.1%	.98%	14.8%	19.1%	-
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	22	1	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	293	-	-	207	-
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	11.5%	.09%	-	1.93%	-
CYSTICERCOSIS.					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

During 1955, foods of various descriptions, in the following quantities were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, which in every case was surrendered, included the following -

# 1955.

Ham, tinned - 3 cwts, 3 qrs., 18 lbs.	
Milk, tinned .. .. .	1,596 tins
Peas, tinned .. .	926 tins
Fruit, tinned .. .	7,641 tins
Vegetables, tinned .. .	2,496 tins
Soup, tinned .. .	812 tins
Meat, tinned - 2 tons, 16 cwts, 3 qrs., 8 lbs.	
Fish and Fish Paste . . . .	914 tins
Fish, fresh . . . . .	61 stones
Beans, tinned .. .	714 tins
Cheese . . . . .	296 lbs.
Eggs . . . . .	1,614
Jam .. .	102 jars and tins
Sweetmeats . . . . .	6 lbs. 2 ozs.
Fresh and Dried Fruit . . . .	361 lbs.
Bacon .. .	1 ton, 1 cwts., 7 lbs.
Puddings, tinned . . . . .	63
Chicken, fresh . . . . .	25
Pies .. .	22
Cakes .. .	34
Beverages .. .	15 bottles
Sausages . . . . .	523 lbs.
Cereals .. .	44 lbs.
Biscuits . . . . .	14 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS, 1955. During the year the following samples of Food and Drugs were taken for analysis and the results are recorded below:-

Article	Number of Samples Obtained	Number Genuine
New Milk	68	67
School Milk	71	52
Monthly New Milk for M.A.F.F.	120	117
Sweetmeats	7	7
Margarine	3	3
Butter	3	3
Mixed Spice	1	1
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	1
Pepper	1	1
Ground Ginger	1	1
Ground Cinnamon	1	1
Ground Nutmeg	1	1
Rice	1	1
Sago	1	1
Pearl Barley	1	1
Cut Peel	2	2
Lentils	1	1
Split Peas	1	1
Dried Peas	1	1
Camphorated Oil	1	1
Tincture of Iodine	1	1
Aspirin	1	1
Cascara Sagrada	1	1
Zinc & Castor Oil	1	1
Zinc Ointment	1	1
Vaseline	1	1
Liquid Paraffin	1	1
Zinc & Castor Oil Ointment	1	1
Beechams Pills	1	1
Sausages	2	2
Tea	1	1
Sugared Coconut	1	1
Dripping	1	1
Jelly	1	1
Orangeade Powder	1	1
Lemonade Powder	1	1
Tinned Sausages	1	1
Cooking Fat	1	1
Bun Flour	1	1
Blancmange Powder	1	1
Custard Powder	1	1
Spirits	6	6
	315	292



## Clean Food

Much interest has been aroused in recent months by the attention that has been directed to the standards of cleanliness which are desirable in the handling of food and in the preparation and serving of meals in restaurants and cafes. So much of our food is imported and may have travelled half across the world before it reached the table, so much use is made of preservation, canning and refrigeration that new risks and dangers have arisen and to the securing of adequate standards of cleanliness and the protection of the consumer, the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 should be of the utmost value, provided that the enforcement of the regulations is sufficiently rigid and that gaps in the defences which are planned to protect the public, do not leave opportunities of evasion for the careless and the unscrupulous.

The very best of regulations for factory and shop and the utmost zeal in enforcing them will be of small avail if the standards of cleanliness and the care taken in the homes are inadequate. Far too many even of modern houses have insufficient and ill-planned food storage space; the refrigerator is still regarded as a luxury, rather than as an essential part of household equipment, as necessary as the cooking stove or the bath. And care in the handling and preparation of food is even more necessary in the home. Far too many cases of food poisoning are the result of ignorance or carelessness in the kitchen or pantry and I am glad that the Maidstone Centre of the St. John Ambulance Association has been able to provide a short course of instruction for food handlers, which would be of benefit to many housewives.

Four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year and these were all sporadic cases, not part of any extensive outbreak and as such almost impossible to ascribe to a definite item of food but the suspicion in all four cases was that the offending contamination originated in the kitchen.



## Clean Food Campaign

1. NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE BOROUGH					651
Class.					Number
Restaurants and Cafes					45
Hotels					12
School Canteens					18
Public Houses					85
Food Shops -					
Butchers					44
Fruit and Greengrocers					44
Bakers					14
Fishmongers					14
Fried Fish Shops					10
Grocers and Provision Merchants					88
Others					35

### 2. FOOD PREMISES, BY TYPE, REGISTERED WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 14 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, LOCAL BYELAWS, AND THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Ice-cream manufacturers					3
Ice-cream sellers			(52% pre-packed)		133
Sausage manufacturers					23
Margarine	Margarine-cheese and	Milk-blended			
Butter (Wholesale Dealers)					11
Artificial cream dealers					2
Milk Distributors		(Sterilised Milk-69)			73
Dairies					3

### 3. NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES 873

### 4. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY

Continual advice and instruction is given by Inspectors during their visits to premises, and local exhibitions play their part by affording opportunities to display clean food posters and instructional material and displays. Talks and lectures to local bodies and associations, and advertising in the press, help to keep this important matter in the public mind.

### 5. METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

The majority of condemned food is incinerated in the Borough's Refuse Destructor at Tovil. In some cases, where the food is recoverable it is returned for re-processing, or sent to adjacent animal food manufacturers for their use. The usual precautions are taken in these cases to ensure that the condemned food cannot re-appear for sale for human consumption. Some condemned meat is used in the local Zoo, whilst the majority is sent for processing as glue and fertiliser.

## 6. EXAMINATION OF SPECIAL STOCKS.

No special stocks worthy of mention have been received in the Borough during the year

### Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease

I give below, in tabular form, details of the cases of notifiable diseases, other than Tuberculosis, which occurred in the Borough during 1955.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Chicken Pox	199	1	"
Scarlet Fever	9	Nil	"
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	"
Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia	14	7	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil	Nil	"
Pneumonia	34	1	41
Food Poisoning	4	Nil	"
Typhoid Fever	Nil	Nil	"
Measles	898	4	"
Whooping Cough	146	2	1
Dysentery	Nil	Nil	"
Erysipelas	3	Nil	"
Acute Polio-myelitis	3	3	"
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	"
Totals	1,311	19	42

## Distribution of Infectious Disease Incidence, 1955

I give below an analysis of the notifications of Infectious Disease, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred.

	South	High Street	Stone Street	King Street	North	Heath	Bridge	Shepway	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	"	"	2	1	"	"	1	9
Diphtheria	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Polio-myelitis	"	"	"	"	"	1	"	2	3
Pueperal Pyrexia	"	5	"	"	2	3	1	3	14
Pneumonia	4	2	"	4	8	5	2	9	34
Erysipelas	1	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Whooping Cough	27	16	"	16	17	3	"	67	146
Chicken-pox	39	3	"	2	7	14	15	119	199
Measles	116	88	"	78	142	99	41	334	898
Malaria	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Dysentery	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Food Poisoning	2	"	"	1	"	"	"	1	4
Meningococcal Infection	"	"	"	"	1	"	"	"	1
Typhoid Fever	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Totals	194	115	"	103	178	126	59	536	1311

SCARLET FEVER. Only 9 notifications were received during the year. This disease would appeared to have changed its character in recent years, formerly it was one of the most important of the infectious diseases and the Isolation Hospital devoted a whole ward to scarlet fever cases, but of the 9 cases reported in 1955, none were sufficiently serious to warrant hospital admission

ACUTE POLIO-MYELITIS AND POLIO-ENCEPHALITIS. Three cases were notified during the year, all three were admitted to hospital and there were no fatal cases. The recent work in the production of a vaccine for protection against polio-myelitis is very promising and high hopes are entertained of the results of its use but much research work is needed to produce

improvements and advances. I am hopeful that a means of giving complete and permanent protection will be found and this disease combatted with the same success as diphtheria, but there is much patient work to be done and I hope that the Polio Research Association will meet with vigorous support in Maidstone

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA** Four cases were reported during the year but it is to be remembered that the notifications now include any case in which there is a rise of temperature after confinement. The deaths under the heading "Childbirth, pregnancy and abortion" were for another year, - "Nil". Long may this be continued

**ENTERIC GROUP OF FEVERS** No notifications of the fevers of the enteric group were received during 1955

**MEASLES** Though notifications had been very low in 1954, the number in 1955 rose and reached the total of 898. Of these cases, 4 were admitted to hospital but happily there were no deaths from this disease. This increased incidence of measles was wide-spread through the County and the whole country.

**WHOOPING-COUGH** This is a disease which recurs each year, with varying severity and though generally regarded as an infection of childhood and not of great consequence, 2 cases had to be admitted to hospital and there was one death. Whooping cough is an infection which causes much distress and discomfort to the patients and great anxiety and distress to the Mothers and while it cannot be claimed that the vaccines available give complete protection. I am convinced that they are of value and that modification of the severity of the attacks can be secured. Modern vaccines combining protection against diphtheria, whooping-cough and tetanus, require only one more injection than the immunisation against diphtheria alone and in my view this is well worth doing.

**DIPHTHERIA** This disease used to be prevalent in Maidstone, the yearly average for the 20 years 1920-1939 being 37 per annum, - but the last cases notified were in 1950 and since 1951 there has been no diphtheria in Maidstone. This happy state of affairs can be regarded as the outcome of the immunisation campaign and now the danger is that the absence

of the fear of diphtheria may produce complacency and lead to a neglect of this essential precaution. To ensure that diphtheria will not return it is requisite that the percentage of protected individuals in the community must be kept high and it is the duty of all parents to ensure that their children are protected.

Diphtheria immunisation was introduced in Maidstone by the Borough Health Committee, but is now the responsibility of the County Council. The County Medical Officer has supplied me with the following Tables showing the figures for diphtheria immunisation and small-pox vaccination in the Borough of Maidstone.

# Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1955.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Borough of Maidstone who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December 1955.

## A DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Inoculations	35	340	52	16	9	31	60	13	8	16	1	-	-	-	-	581
Reinforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	26	165	136	37	54	217	3	3	2	-	3	646

## B VACCINATION

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	245	131	6	4	2	3	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	22	420
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	14	19



# **Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1955.**

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December 1955 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941)

Year of Birth	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1951 - 1955	30	210	360	609	605	784	866	495	424	538	529	463	422	361	35	6731
1950 or earlier	356	279	184	112	75	62	16	101	199	28	-	-	-	-	-	1412



## Malignant Disease.

I give below two short Tables, one giving the number of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone for the past seven years and the other showing the age-groups of deaths from this cause in 1955. Much work is being done and much more remains to be done to elucidate the cause and origin of cancer and early diagnosis and treatment offer the best hope of successful treatment but too often fear is the cause of needless delay and lost opportunity, for the hope of successful surgical treatment is based on the treatment being undertaken sufficiently early.

The number of deaths from malignant disease in Maidstone during the past 7 years is as follows:-

1949	..	.	..	..	101
1950	..	..	..	..	98
1951	..	.	..	..	95
1952	..	.	..	..	106
1953	..	..	..	..	82
1954	..	..	..	..	98
1955		.	.	..	107

### Deaths from Cancer during 1955 under age groups.

Age Periods	Male	Female.
0-1	-	-
2-5	-	-
6-15	-	-
16-25	-	-
26-35	-	-
36-45	2	-
46-55	5	8
56-65	15	8
66 and over	36	33
Totals	58	49

## Ophthalmia Neonatorum

(i) Total number of cases notified during the  
 year    ..        ..        ..        ..        Nil

(ii) Number of cases in which:-

(a) Vision lost ..        ..        ..        -  
 (b) Vision impaired ..        ..        -  
 (c) Treatment continuing at end of year ..        -

## Tuberculosis

Statistics for 1955.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
2-5	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
6-15	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
16-25	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
26-35	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
36-45	9	4	-	-	1	2	-	-
46-55	7	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
56-65	3	3	-	-	1	-	1	-
66 & over	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals	33	17	2	2	4	3	1	Nil

All deaths from Tuberculosis were in cases which had been notified.

In the area which includes the Borough of Maidstone, as well as the Rural Districts of Maidstone, Malling and Hollingbourn, the Centre for the diagnosis, treatment and after-care of cases of tuberculosis is situated at Foster Street, Maidstone. Close co-operation between the Chest Clinic and the Health Departments of the four Authorities has continued during the year and Dr. David Pugh, the Chest Physician for the Mid-Kent area, has kindly supplied me with figures of the number of contacts of known cases of tuberculosis which were examined during the year, and the number diagnosed as tuberculous. These figures relate to the area served by the Chest Clinic.

(a) Number of contacts seen during 1955 of newly notified cases of tuberculosis .. .. .	352
(b) Number of contacts seen during 1955 of cases notified prior to 1955 .. .. .	360
(c) Number of contacts in (a) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis ..	6
(d) Number of contacts in (b) found to be suffering from pulmonary or non-pulmonary tuberculosis ..	5

During 1955, there was no visit of the mass Radiography Service Units to this area, the last such visit being in 1953, but a visit was arranged for the early months of 1956, when a larger number of Centres were available to the public than in 1953. Preliminary figures which are available indicate that this policy resulted in an increased attendance by the general public amounting to an increase over the 1953 figures of 5,099. Fuller details will be available later and the results of the 1956 survey included in the Report for that year.

The arrangements at the Chest Clinic for the tracing and following-up of contacts have continued to work satisfactorily and in the after-care of tuberculous patients and their dependants, the Maidstone and District Tuberculosis After-Care Committee has done much valuable work and this body, with the more recent organisation, the "Friends of Foster Street" is deserving of the fullest support.

TABLE I

1955

Causes of death.		M.	F.
All Causes		319	334
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory		4	3
2 Tuberculosis, other		1	0
3 Syphilitic disease		2	0
4 Diphtheria		0	0
5 Whooping Cough		1	0
6 Meningococcal infections		0	0
7 Acute poliomyelitis		0	0
8 Measles		0	0
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases		0	0
10 Malignant neoplasm stomach		7	4
11 Malignant neoplasm lung, bronchus		23	2
12 Malignant neoplasm breast		0	7
13 Malignant neoplasm uterus		0	2
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		28	34
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia		1	1
16 Diabetes		1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system		34	46
18 Coronary disease angina		53	26
19 Hypertension with heart disease		6	13
20 Other heart disease		63	82
21 Other circulatory disease		11	11
22 Influenza		2	3
23 Pneumonia		11	30
24 Bronchitis		19	16
25 Other diseases of respiratory system		3	1
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum		5	2
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		0	0
28 Nephritis and nephrosis		3	5
29 Hyperplasia of prostate		3	0
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		0	0
31 Congenital malformations		0	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases		22	33
33 Motor vehicle accidents		4	2
34 All other accidents		8	6
35 Suicide		4	1
36 Homicide and operations of war		0	0

TABLE III

Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under  
Age Groups, 1955.

Disease	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Total (All Ages)
Scarlet Fever	1	-	2	5	-	1	-	9
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	14
Pneumonia	1	2	1	8	2	3	17	34
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	11	25	35	70	3	1	1	146
Chicken-pox	2	18	29	116	25	2	7	199
Measles	16	159	179	525	14	3	2	898
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	33	205	246	724	44	17	42	1311

TABLE III

Analysis of Deaths from Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups, 1955

Disease	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Whooping Cough	1												1
Meningococcal Infection													
Diphtheria													
Puerperal Sepsis													
Other Puerperal Diseases													
Paratyphoid Fever													
Pneumonia	2									1	14	24	41
Poliomyelitis													
Totals	3									1	14	24	42

TABLE IV

## Deaths

Deaths apportioned to the Wards of the  
Borough

Month	High Street	King Street	North Ward	South Ward	Bridge Ward	Heath Ward	Shep- way	Totals
January	19	7	10	5	10	29	7	87
February	5	6	3	5	11	24	5	59
March	8	8	4	5	10	35	6	76
April	14	6	8	6	6	21	1	62
May	5	3	3	4	1	20	5	41
June	8	4	4	2	1	28	3	50
July	3	8	5	6	8	11	4	45
August	4	7	3	3	5	9	5	36
September	4	3	3	4	2	16	2	34
October	1	7	3	14	4	25	4	58
November	6	7	3	2	3	22	2	45
December	13	6	5	5	5	21	5	60
Totals	90	72	54	61	66	261	49	653



TABLE V  
Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality in the  
year 1955.

	Rate per 1,000 popula- tion		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Small-pox	Polio-myelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	Pneumonia	Total Deaths under one year		
England and Wales	15.0	23.2	11.7	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.01	0.49	24.9		
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	14.9	23.2	11.6	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.01	0.53	25.1		
160 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tion 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	14.9	23.3	11.6	-	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.45	25.2		
London Administra- tive County	15.1	20.2	11.5	-	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.05	-	0.01	0.63	23.2		
Maldstone Borough	13.16	0.29	11.44	-	0.14	-	-	0.09	-	-	0.74	21.00		

### Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

Cause	Number of Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births
Maternal causes	438	0.57

### Maldstone Borough

	Puerperal Infections	Others	Total
Per 1,000 Total Births	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE V

Infant Mortality 1955. Nett Deaths from stated  
causes at various ages Under 1 Year of Age

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	5	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	5
Enteritis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Congenital Malformation	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Atelectais	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other Causes	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3
Totals	10	1	1	1	11	1	3	1	1	15

Nett Live Births in the year	(Legitimate	683
	(Illegitimate	31
Nett Deaths in the year	(Legitimate	14
	(Illegitimate	1

TABLE VII

## Meteorology

Month	Average Barometer	Average Thermo- meter (Max.)	Average Thermo- meter (Min.)	Rainfall	No. of days on which .01 fell
January .. ..	29.48	42	32	3.72	21
February .. ..	29.39	42	30	1.94	18
March .. ..	29.74	46	32	1.25	13
April .. ..	29.85	61	41	.25	5
May .. ..	29.58	64	43	3.85	17
June .. ..	29.49	74	52	1.97	14
July .. ..	29.53	79	56	3.25	6
August .. ..	29.50	78	57	.71	7
September .. ..	29.60	68	48	2.64	13
October .. ..	29.64	57	40	4.96	13
November .. ..	29.75	51	40	.98	14
December .. ..	29.50	50	36	1.82	20
Average and Total for the year	29.67	59	42	27.34	161

TABLE VIII  
RECORD OF SUNSHINE DURING 1955

Month	Hours	Minutes
January .. ..	6	36
February .. ..	62	36
March .. ..	124	6
April .. ..	141	40
May .. ..	167	12
June .. ..	142	18
July .. ..	167	-
August .. ..	155	18
September .. ..	129	6
October .. ..	75	12
November .. ..	13	18
December .. ..	10	-
Totals .. ..	1194	22

TABLE IX  
RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND DURING 1955

	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January	3	2	4	9	6	6	1	-
February	2	5	5	2	5	5	1	3
March	4	5	8	1	4	5	2	2
April	3	4	5	3	1	13	-	1
May	-	1	3	3	2	15	1	6
June	1	2	3	6	3	11	1	3
July	1	10	7	-	3	4	-	6
August	3	5	4	4	2	8	2	3
September	1	-	2	4	-	15	-	8
October	1	1	5	8	2	7	-	7
November	2	2	7	9	3	4	-	3
December	2	-	1	3	5	15	-	5
Totals	23	37	54	52	36	108	8	47

## BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

### General Summary

Population (Estimated 1955)	54,760
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	8,472
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1955)	
according to Rate Books	15,635
Average Number of persons per house (1921)	4.6
Average Number of Persons per House (1955)	3.5
Area	6,194 acres
Density	8,840 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate	per 1,000 population 13.16
Annual Death Rate	11.44
Phthisis Death Rate	.13
Cancer Death Rate	1.9
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	21.00
Live Births. Males, 361    Females, 353	714
Deaths. Males, 319,    Females, 334	653
Excess of Births over Deaths	61

ELEVATION - The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.

